(b) if so, the total loss sustained by this Company as per latest information available;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated to modernise the working of the Kolar Gold fields and make them a viable unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Accumulated losses of Bharat Gold Mines Limited as on 31-3-1991 amounted to Rs. 76.65 crores.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Due to depletion of ore reserves, low grade and mining at ultra depth, the Company will be phasing out the mines at Kolar Gold Fields on economic considerations.

Revision of Royalty on Minerals

2626. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently revised the royalty rates on 54 categories of minerals;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised rates of royalty are applicable to all the States/Union Territories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government have revised the rates of royalty on minerals other than coal, lignite and minor minerals with effect from 17-2-92. A copy of the notification revising the rates of royalty on minerals has been laid on the table of the House on February 28, 1992. Substantial increase in the rates of royalty of most of the minerals has been provided in order to broadly compensate the State on account of loss of certain State levies on minerals.

(c) to (e) The revised rates of royalty have been made applicable to all States and Union Territories except Assam and West Bengal where the pre-revised rates will continue to apply. The revised rates of royalty will be extended to the States of Assam and West Bengal once these States stop collecting cess and other levies on minerals imposed under their State Laws.

Gold Deposits in the Country

2627. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total produtcion of Gold in the country at present and its value;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to undertake a crash programme to increase the production of Gold in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the latest position regarding the exploration for Gold in the country and the results achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Anticipated production of gold in the country during 1991-92 is 1970 Kgs valued at Rs. 82.77 crores approximately.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Known gold deposits in the country are generally small and of low grade, thus being not amendable to any meaningful stepping up of production on account of doubtful economic viability.